

GOSSIP FROM CAPITAL

Analysis of Committee Appointments of Kansas

DAMPER ON IRRIGATION

Roosevelt's Recommendations Discourage.

Washington, Dec. 12.—It is a common remark in the Kansas colony here that it has been many years since Kansas has had so well on committees in the house of representatives. To the constituent, it may not always clearly appear why so much stress is laid on the committee assignments; and why what his member secures in this line is featured up so strongly. But in Washington, the importance of a member is gauged and measured by the membership he has on committees. His usefulness is often determined, as well, by his committee standing in the house. For a member usually seeks membership on the committee along which his particular ambition runs; and hence his usefulness.

Kansas is the foremost state in the house of representatives, with a solid delegation that is numerically strong. Formerly this honor went to states like Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota, which have a large delegation than the Sunflower state. But last fall's elections were too much for the Republicans in states named, and each of them, save Kansas, sent a Democrat from one or more districts. Kansas sent a solid delegation, gaining the Third district, so long an opposition one. It has eight Republican members, and in the house machinery and organization, eight men who will do business, count. Hence this is point No. 1, in enumerating the reasons why Kansas was so successful at the committee pie-cake when "Uncle Joe" Cannon, the new speaker, dealt out the prizes.

Point No. 2 was the fact that of all the states outside of Illinois, Kansas probably had the honor of first setting into the Joe Cannon camp when the speaker-ship contest came on more than a year ago. The rugged and picturesque westerner who now thumps the gavel so vigorously with his left hand, and who is engaged in warring with the senate over the independence of the house, appealed to the Kansas members. Those who had served with him in the house were for him; of course. They knew the stuff he was made of. They thought he would make a good speaker. The two new men, Campbell of the Third and Murdoch of the Seventh, were also for him, as readily as anyone else, for they had heard all about him. So this is another reason why "Uncle Joe" wanted to give Kansas something good in the way of committee assignments.

The best house assignment that Kansas has is Curtis' place on ways and means. It is the place Mr. Long held for two congresses, and of course is the best thing in the committee line. In the house, Curtis also holds his ranking membership, or second place, on Indian affairs. In view of his excellent luck however, in securing ways and means, he lost his small chairmanship, that of the committee on expenditures in the department of interior, which, though not counted for much, says that it gave him a committee room at the capitol. Judge Calderhead maintained his place on banking and currency, being third. He also remains on another useful committee—invalid pensions, being fourth. Besides this, he secures a small chairmanship—expenditures in the department of justice—which gives him a handsome committee room in the capitol building.

Mr. Scott, the representative at-large, is fifth on agriculture; and third on mines and mining; two good committees. He was on both in the last congress.

Mr. Miller, from the fourth, has excellent assignments. He is third on public lands; ranking member, or second place, on elections No. 2; and fourth on claims. All these, particularly the first and third, are very good committees.

Mr. Reeder of the Sixth is ranking member on irrigation; and therefore in line for chairmanship. He also is chairman of mileage, which is of importance to members about the beginning of a session when the mileage is computed and allowed. Mr. Reeder has a handsome committee room.

Mr. Bowersock gains membership on a good committee—industrial arts and exhibitions. He is fifth member on this committee, which has so much to do with the Louisiana Purchase exposition at St. Louis next year. Mr. Roosevelt also is fourth on reforms in the civil service; and ranking member of the committee on the alcoholic liquor traffic.

Not considering the fact that they hold young and new members of the house, perhaps none of the Kansas members did better than either Mr. Murdoch or Mr. Campbell. Mr. Murdoch, ever since his election has had an ambition to become a member of the committee on post office and post roads, and his ambition has been gratified, thanks to "Uncle Joe" Cannon. This is perhaps the very best of the second-rate committees, and all the more important in view of the possibility of legislation and research growing out of the late postal frauds.

Mr. Campbell desired a place on interstate and foreign commerce. This could not be given him; but he secured two very fine assignments—district of Columbia, and pensions. Mr. Campbell is abundantly satisfied, and thinks speaker Cannon is a very fine man.

The Kansas are prepared to do good committee work this session, and if retained in congress, will gradually work their way toward excellent chairmanships—something the state has not had in the house of representatives since the Fifty-first congress.

In this connection, it is of interest to note what Kansas did have in the Fifty-first congress. That was 1889-91. E. N. Morrill, afterward governor of Kansas, was chairman of invalid pensions; and introduced and fathered the bill named for him, and now known as the act of 1890. Bishop W. Perkins, later a United States senator, was chairman of Indian affairs. Thomas Ryan was on appropriations; and was later succeeded on that committee by Samuel R. Peters of the Seventh district. Judge Peters before that had been on post office and post roads. Funston, father of General Frederick Funston, was chairman of agriculture.

Some time since, attention was called to the fact, in these columns, that Chas. M. Lulling, state superintendent of in-

struction, had written all the members of the Kansas delegation asking their support of a measure calculated to deny the use of the mails to fraudulent insurance concerns which were annually taking thousands of dollars from the state. Most of the Kansas members pledged themselves to assist in securing the enactment of such legislation. The measure was regarded as a meritorious one, and in line with the reform of the insurance business. The gist of the correctionary legislation was contained in a section which provided that no letter, pamphlet, etc., should be carried by mail, or delivered by a postmaster, unless the transaction of business by the concern in question was authorized by the states into which the letter or pamphlet came; or in the states from whence they came. A penalty of \$500 was attached for violation of provisions of the law, and violation was made a misdemeanor. The bill was introduced in both house and senate; in the senate by Mr. Dryden of New Jersey, himself president of a great insurance concern.

Now, however, come the lumbermen and the machinery-manufacturing concerns, and the bill is leveled against them, whether by inadvertence or otherwise. They say that inter-insurance has been the means of saving large sums to lumber dealers and buyers and users of various kinds of machinery, and that they forced rates one-half on this class of insurance. They maintain that their kind of insurance is merely protective; and not for profit. They state that they have no desire to oppose "wild cat" insurance concerns; but urge that an amendment in the bill be made, as follows:

"Inter-insurance exchanges, the members whereof indemnify one another against loss by fire, only for saving, not for profit, shall be exempted from the provisions of this act."

Kansas senators and representatives, as well as those from all states, are being flooded with requests for this amendment, from lumbermen and others in their industry. It is attracting considerable attention, owing to the fact that these undoubtedly will be some legislation along this line.

In his annual message to congress, the president said, speaking of irrigation: "The reclamation law, while perhaps not ideal, appears at present to answer the larger needs for which it is designed. Further legislation is not recommended until the necessities of change are more apparent."

The recommendation of the president, who has always strongly favored irrigation and the reclamation of arid lands, has very much discouraged the irrigation advocates in congress. They feel that as a result of this, there will be no legislation by congress at the present session. Men like Representative Murdoch, however, who have given attention especially to this subject, believe that they may possibly be able to devise some system whereby arid and semi-arid lands may be benefited by existing legislation. They will continue to seek the means; in spite of what the president has said to congress on the question of further legislation.

Senator Burton has introduced a bill to enlarge the national cemetery at Fort Scott, Kan.

A number of Kansans will return to the state next week, after the holiday adjournment. R. H. FAXON.

WANT GOOD ROADS.

The farmers are a class conservative in their views, and slow to move. They do their thinking first and their talking afterwards. For some reason the farmers of this country have been reading and thinking about road improvement and the best way to secure that much desired result. They have considered local taxation and labor as the means of building good roads, and have found this long-tried plan to be a failure except in limited localities. They have studied the state aid plan and observed the great advance made under it. Finally they have been studying the question of national aid and they appear to have concluded that "it is the way they look have sought and mourned because they found it not." At any rate that line, conservative old farmers' organization, the Patrons of Husbandry, commonly spoken of as "The Grange," in its national meeting at Buffalo a few days ago came out with the following strong and unequivocal declaration:

"Whereas, The United States government has expended vast amounts of money in the improvement of transportation facilities by river and harbor appropriations which have donated vast tracts of valuable land in aid of the construction of railroads.

"Therefore, be it resolved, That the National Grange favors the inauguration of a national policy for the improvement of highways, and the appropriation by congress of a liberal amount to establish a comprehensive system of road improvement through the co-operation of the federal and state governments, suggesting that the general features of what is termed the Brownlow bill embody, with some modification, the essential features of such a policy.

"Resolved, That we call upon all state, Pomoan and subordinate granges to take prompt and vigorous action upon this important matter; and we hereby authorize the legislative committee of the National Grange to transmit and conduct an aggressive campaign in securing federal aid for improvement of highways. Also that our legislative committee be authorized to gather all the information possible regarding the road laws and systems of road building in the several states, and that such information be published in such form as the committee deems best."

These resolutions will set in motion a vast force that moves slowly but irresistibly; for it must be remembered that the National Grange usually gets what it goes after, whether it is a state freight law, the creation of a national department of agriculture, or the passage of an oleomargarine bill. This is by far the most important endorsement the Brownlow bill has yet received.

A new typewriting machine returns the carriage automatically when the end of a line is reached.

KAHUNA OF HAWAII

Was Native Who Formerly Prayed People to Death.

TO BE SEEN AT ST. LOUIS

Also Robe Made from Feathers of Oo-oo Bird.

St. Louis, Dec. 12.—Hawaii, at the World's Fair of 1904, will show to the world her advancement under American rule and at the same time will present persons and things that speak of the days when the Kamehamehas ruled the land and superstition was rampant.

Prince Cupid—be of the erstwhile royal family who is now a delegate to the National Congress from the mid-Pacific group—said while in St. Louis recently that a Hawaiian exhibit would be incomplete without a kahuna, a hula-hula girl, a kahili, and a robe made from feathers of the oo-oo bird. He also said that these links which bind the present with the past could still be found in different parts of the country.

For it was not more than twenty years ago that the kahunas prayed people to death, even as they did during Captain Cook's time; indeed their services as exorcists were in demand on the day that the stars and stripes were hoisted for the first time over the government palace at Honolulu, when they were asked to use their incantations for the purpose of driving the foreigners into the sea. So that some of these old witch doctors still live in their grass huts on mountain sides, and although their practices are forbidden by law, yet there is little doubt that they still listen to those who invoke their powers.

Under the belief that kahuna could pray the soul out of a man or woman many crimes were undoubtedly committed in the Hawaiian islands in years gone by, for it is evident that after receiving their fee for services that would result in death they resorted to the use of poison and retained their prestige. But so skillfully were the deeds of violence committed that for centuries no one suspected the truth, and it was believed that these white-haired priests possessed the power to kill by the means of prayer alone.

The hula-hula girl, though more modern than the kahuna, is also becoming a

plumage of larger birds than the oo-oo was used in forming the kahili, which are immense plumes, made of variegated feathers and used by attendants to wave flies and other insects from the monarch's face. These by the dozens will be brought to St. Louis, taken from the room in Honolulu where reminiscences of royalty are stored as souvenirs.

But it is the Hawaii or today that will interest no less than the Hawaii of the dark ages. An education is the keynote of the Louisiana Purchase, and when then so it is in matters educational that the islanders will make their principal showing. And it will probably astonish visitors to learn from one exhibit that the Kanaka children are the best educated of any children in the world; that is, in proportion to the population, more Kanaka boys and girls read and write and do the rule of three than in any country on earth.

Again in the agricultural division Hawaii will shine, exhibiting a high grade coffee that is being cultivated on the leeward side of the largest island of the group. And it will be explained that the lava soil with which the islands are formed is the richest of the earth. The rich sugar cane and the method of crushing it will be a feature, and when then there will be exhibit of fruits and flowers. Kona beef will be seen in the cattle pens and also sheep that graze on the mountain tops at an altitude that almost reaches the snow level. In every department except wines and metallurgy the islanders will be represented. They will have no exhibits of minerals, for there, as you may, none come to the surface to pick and shovel but lava, lava, lava.

Visitors to the Hawaiian village will be treated to a native luncheon or luau, prepared as on the lands that are waved-washed by the Pacific. It is not good form at one of these luncheons to sit in a chair, for if you do you will be high above the table, which is nothing more than native vines and flowers strung on mother earth. So, therefore you seat yourself as nature intended.

Soup? There is none. Poi takes its place. This is a substance the consistency of paste and resembling it in color, which is prepared from taro root. The natives macerate the taro in an earthen bowl, using a stone, such as a druggist mixes ingredients with pestle and mortar. There are two kinds of poi—two-fingered and one-fingered, the former being thicker than the latter. To understand, one must remember that it is very bad taste to ask for a spoon when eating poi. The digits must be used and it is remarkable how expert some people can become in the manipulation. First, stick the forefinger of the right hand in the substance that is placed before you, give it a twist until the poi adheres well on all sides, then with a graceful movement curve that clings into your mouth. Suck the finger well until nothing remains, then repeat the operation. From this description you will understand that two-fingered poi is that which could not be manipulated readily with one finger. If you are in doubt as to how many fingers you should use watch your host and follow his example.

A most surprising feature of the poi is its resistance, in the shape of a roast sucking pig, prepared in native style. Hops before you are hidden to the luau preparations for this delicacy were underway. First, a hole was dug in the ground, and watching its construction, one might remark that it resembled an infant's grave. Meanwhile large stones are being heated to red heat. The sucking pig, ready, dressed and cleaned, the bottom of the grave is lined with hot stones, these in turn are covered with fragrant leaves, the pig is placed on its side, more leaves are sprinkled over it, then another layer of hot stones, and finally earth is thrown on. There it bakes and simmers until the time has arrived for service at table, when it is served, juicy and brown.

With the pig is passed a delicate salad and you wonder what the plant is that has such peculiarly delicious flavor. A native tells you that it is a seaweed, gathered from the coral reefs. It has been sent to St. Louis in large cans of sea water, and it is as fresh as when plucked from beneath the breakers on Oahu's shore.

In another dish are tender shark's fins, covered with oil and cuts from squid that rival a venison steak in richness.

To be in form at this luncheon you must wear a lei, or wreath of flowers around your neck, and be you man or woman, this floral dress is necessary. The girls and boys mingle with the vines that are the table cloth, so that those at luncheon appear imbedded in masses of vegetation.

Prince Cupid was asked whether the Royal Hawaiian band would come to St. Louis and replied that a popular subscription for that purpose was being raised in the islands. There is an interesting story told of events in the winter of 1902, which shows that a pretty American girl and a native had conspired to present a revolution.

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rarity, owing to the objection to their form of dancing offered by the newcomers on the islands. The criticism on the part of foreigners could not be understood by the natives when first offered, for the hula girl was to them the poetry of motion and her every act was the expression of a Hawaiian song.

These girls were trained for their dances while yet in the cradle, when women who were expert in their convolutions that would be necessary, twisted their limbs and kneaded the little one's muscles until they became supple as acrobats.

Kahalis and robes made from birds' feathers speak of a day when gorgeous feathered songsters filled the trees and bushes of the islands. But alas for the vanity of kings! This species of fauna, indigenous to the archipelago, has long since departed and the birds seen today are the result of importation.

One of the Kamehamehas is responsible for the extinction of these members of the feathered tribe. When admiring an oo-oo one day he decreed that he should be furnished with a royal robe, made from the golden tufts that shone on the breasts of the songsters. These tufts were only a fraction of an inch in diameter and the robe maker said that hundreds of thousands of the birds would be needed to complete the gorgeous garment.

"If it takes every bird in my kingdom I must have the robe," said the monarch, and forthwith the slaughter began. Probably the most magnificent piece of wearing apparel ever worn, even by a king, was the result. But the birds were so plentiful that there still remained a goodly number, seeing which, and his vanity being unsatisfied, Kamehamehas ordered that a cape be made, even as the robe has been. This time the hunters were at work for a much longer period and when they had completed their task not an oo-oo remained on the islands, and you hear of them today only in fables.

But the garments are in existence—priceless robes of a former state. One is in the British museum, taken there soon after Liliuokalani's abdication, and the other is in the government building at Honolulu. It is the latter that will be seen in St. Louis next summer.

Plumage of larger birds than the oo-oo was used in forming the kahili, which are immense plumes, made of variegated feathers and used by attendants to wave flies and other insects from the monarch's face. These by the dozens will be brought to St. Louis, taken from the room in Honolulu where reminiscences of royalty are stored as souvenirs.

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She, a pretty girl, had overheard of a plot to restore Liliuokalani to the throne. The conspirators had agreed to make a dash on the palace on a certain evening and the signal was to be the first strains of "Hawaii Ponoi" played by the band. From time immemorial this national anthem had been the concluding number to every concert.

The momentous night arrived, the revolutionists were gathered in groups in different parts of the city, some as cavalry, some an infantry and others with a rapid-firing gun of artillery. The greater number were assembled with the crowd that twice a week gathered to hear the band play.

Now it happened that the girl who had overheard the plot did not dare reveal what she knew to the government officials, for her lover was one of the conspirators and if his name was once revealed, he stood in danger of death at the hands of a firing squad. So, knowing what the signal for the uprising would be, she adopted other means to prevent the occurrence. Going to the band leader, when he was half through the program, she coaxed him to substitute another piece for "Hawaii Ponoi," and when the hour arrived for the concluding number of the night, instead of the strains of the revolutionists at hearing the strains of "The Star-Spangled Banner" burst forth from the brazenes. They became completely demoralized and the revolution was stifled in the bud.

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